

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA

JULY 2003



## SC/CBF is growing *Intern will work with congregations to promote missions/ministry*

It's a broad job description that might frustrate a young intern, but Nadja Croft is looking at it as a challenge.

Nadja joined the SC/CBF team June 16 for a year as an intern for missions and ministry.

Her job description includes general promotion of SC/CBF, and managing the Columbia office. But more specifically she will be focusing attention on mission opportunities by working with congregations and individuals to help them achieve their personal mission goals and the mission goals of CBF's Global Missions and SC/CBF.

"It is impossible to do all that is described in her job description," said SC/CBF Coordinator Marion Aldridge. "CBF of SC has no desire to frustrate an intern. We want this to be a good experience of learning how churches and the systems that support and serve churches work. This is a year of working and networking."

"The real need in CBF of SC now is for someone with traditional Minister of Education-type skills who can do detail work, making phone calls, creating infra-

structure and implementing decisions," Aldridge said. "Nadja will also be involved in helping CBF of SC cast a vision for the future, relating especially to our Inheritors/Horizon Committee."

Nadja graduated from Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond in May 2002, with a Masters of Divinity. She was ordained in June of that year by her home church, First Baptist in Orangeburg, and still lives in Orangeburg with her mother.

"I am excited about working for CBF for several reasons," Nadja said. "I like the fact that CBF supports and encourages theological education; its emphasis on global missions and ministries; its outreach to urban poor and other marginalized; its adherence to our basic Baptist principles; and of course its support and encouragement of women in ministry."

"I think it will be a great year of learning and networking with Baptists in South Carolina and beyond," she said. "I look forward to being a part of the CBF team."



## Sen. Thurmond was 'faithful' member of First Baptist Church in Aiken

Sen. Strom Thurmond, until his death at the end of June, had been a loyal and faithful member of First Baptist Church in Aiken for more than 50 years.

"He and his first wife Jean had been very active members of the church from 1951 until her death in 1960," said former SC/CBF moderator Fred Andrea, pastor at Aiken for the past 10 years.

Thurmond provided important leadership on the committee that drew the plans and raised the money for the church's current sanctuary, Andrea said.

Until about two years ago, Thurmond regularly attended church when he was in the state. "He wasn't showy," Andrea said. "He was a part of the regular worshipping congregation, although he was always approachable and accessible following the service."

About 10 years ago, Thurmond did take a prominent worship role by bringing the children's sermon.

Andrea and Thurmond, despite a 50-year age difference, were friends who shared the unusual common bond of having lost both a spouse and child. "We had each buried a child and a wife and we both found renewal of love and reaffirmation of life," Andrea said.

One of Andrea's special memories of Thurmond happened in February 1997. The Andrea's — Fred, Dawn and six-year-old Rebecca — were invited to the National Prayer Breakfast and had a front-row seat thanks to Thurmond. They also enjoyed special tours of government buildings. Two weeks later Rebecca died. Four years later, cancer claimed Dawn's life. "That time in Washington is an especially poignant memory for me," Andrea said.

Thurmond's widow, Nancy, and their son Strom Jr. and his wife Heather are members at First Baptist Aiken. In December, Andrea will participate in the wedding of another son, Paul, who has grown up in the church.

Justice, among other things, is a Call to Renewal. Call to Renewal is people of faith overcoming poverty.

Three members of the South Carolina CBF Justice Committee — Nancy Brown, Brenda Kneece, and Bob Taylor — attended “Call to Renewal” in Washington, DC, June 9-11, along with 130 other participants

The SC delegation also included Charleston SC/CBF urban ministers Bill Stanfield and Evelyn Oliveira; SC/CBF coordinator Marion Aldridge, and Beverly Burch and Ethel Green, representing the Charleston Ministerial Alliance.

“The staff and volunteers of Call to Renewal prepared us for our visit to Capital Hill by pulling together materials and unifying our efforts through seminars, inspirational worship, and prayer,” said Taylor, chair of the Justice Committee.

The South Carolina delegation met with staff members of Sen. Ernest F. Hollings and Sen. Lindsey Graham. “We delivered the message that elected leaders should help meet the needs of the poor by supporting tax policies that benefit low-income people; by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); and eliminating the marriage penalty for recipients of the EITC,” Taylor said.

“We also delivered the message that a budget is a moral document, and that the current federal budget priorities ignore the poor and, in some cases, penalize them,” said Kneece, executive director of the South Carolina Christian Action Council. “It is unjust that our nation commits so much



Layth Elhassani, seated right, a member of Sen. Fritz Hollings’ staff, met with the SC/CBF delegation.

## WHAT IS JUSTICE?

### SC/CBF delegation talks to Washington senators about poverty issues during ‘Call to Renewal’

funding, time and energy to matters of war and a tax policy that disproportionately benefits the wealthy, while ignoring citizens suffering from the effects of poverty. This kind of budget is at odds with our Christian faith and sense of morality. A nation is judged by how its poor are treated, and right now our nation is failing miserably to act justly toward the least of these. We encouraged them to put poverty back on the national agenda.”

“Our elected leaders can help meet

the needs of poor people, if, we the people of faith, call them to renew the budget process and quit ignoring the poorest of the poor,” Taylor said.

“By participating in Call to Renewal, SC/CBF joins other major faith-based organizations to stay focused on overcoming poverty by providing a voice of influence on a national level and by enabling and encouraging us to be a voice of influence on a local level,” Taylor said. “Through Call to Renewal, our unity and focus on overcoming poverty, dismantling racism, and affirming life will be enhanced,” Taylor said.

The National City Christian Church was the host congregation for this ecumenically-sponsored event.

See what **Call to Renewal** is all about at [www.calltorenewal.com](http://www.calltorenewal.com)  
Bob Taylor, *Chair, Justice Committee, CBF of SC*  
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### CBF Volunteer Opportunity

Kezia Paul, left, CBF’s Volunteer Program Director, joined SC/CBF Coordinating Council members for a tour of The Children’s Center of Cedar Branch Community in Loris recently. CBF provides volunteer opportunities at the center. The Children’s Center offers a number of services to families in the Horry County area, including child-care and a full after-school program. Council members Gene Sparks, Steve Hadden, and Hoyt Hardee are shown here as one of the center employees shows them the teen room.

You may view the color maps indicating where South Carolina CBF churches have missions work by going to our website, [www.cbfofsc.org](http://www.cbfofsc.org). If you would like to add your church's "missions connections" to the map, please email Laurie Berry at [berryl@mindspring.com](mailto:berryl@mindspring.com).

We represented our churches' "missions connections" visually on a map at the General Assembly. We sent out a request via the newsletter and email. And did you ever respond! Almost 40 churches eagerly described ministries both local and global. Former SC/CBF intern Pamela Light volunteered to label the maps with push pins and red threads connecting churches and their missions partners around the world. What did we learn from this project?

(1) SC/CBF churches are, as Daniel Vestal puts it, "missional." There wasn't room in South Carolina to list all your local ministries. You have also been on mission in 22 states and have missions connections with more than 37 countries on five continents.

(2) Our missions connections are

as diverse as the church itself. Some grow out of personal relationships with missionaries; others arise from a church's calling to a particular ministry or place. Some were arranged through CBF or denominational programs, others through independent ministries or in partner-

ship with other Christian organizations. Yet in every way, through word and/or deed, Christ is preached.

(3) Our churches are being transformed through their missions connections. Those red threads connecting us to the world are also a record of how the world has impacted our churches. When we

witness revival in Asia or Central America or Africa, we come back with renewed hope for our own mission field in America. Our Fellowship churches see God's kingdom differently because of our "missions connections." And it is very good.



## Missions connections

### MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

By Laurie Berry, Columbia



First Baptist Church, Lancaster, intern Lydia Mulkey, left, with pastor Rob O'Neal, back, and church members Susan Freeman, Harriett Hamrick, and Roland Freeman. The group was attending the General Assembly in Charlotte on June 26.

## Mulkey returns to Lancaster for second summer as intern

Lydia Mulkey is working as a summer intern for the second year at First Baptist Church in Lancaster.

From Florida, she will be a junior at Belmont College in Nashville, where she is a music major. She is working this summer with the youth and leading Bible studies for children on Wednesday nights.

Lydia is the daughter of Bob Mulkey, the pastor of First Baptist Church in Deland, FL, where Rob O'Neal, the pastor at FBC Lancaster, was minister of education.



## Eau Claire hosts simultaneous Vacation Bible Schools for Hispanics

Eau Claire Baptist Church in Columbia recently hosted one of four simultaneous Hispanic Vacation Bible Schools led by a 50-member team from Arlington, Texas. Eight members of this team, along with 20 Eau Claire volunteers, ministered to 30 children each morning. The week culminated in two worship services on Thursday and Friday evenings attended by approximately 125 people each night.

The Missions committee of SC/CBF provided \$500 to assist in this ministry. Of this money, \$157 was used

to purchase Spanish Bibles for the families, and \$333 was used to provide food. Eau Claire is hoping to find a bilingual speaker who is willing to lead an

ongoing Hispanic ministry.



## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### July-August 2003

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### CBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2003



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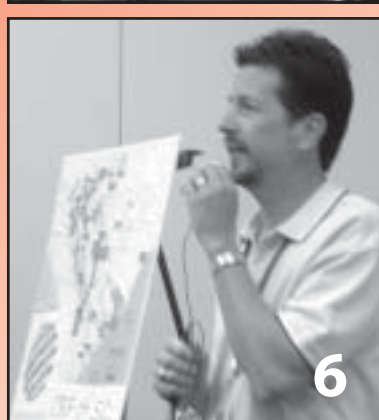
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**1.** Russ and Dorothy Wimmer, new members of Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill. **2.** Sam Coates, center, the Associate Pastor at Pelham Road Baptist Church in Greenville, was Music and Worship Coordinator for the General Assembly. He is pictured here with two of his sons, Patterson, left, 16, and William, 18. **3.** Ronnie Kheim from First Baptist Church in Anderson. **4.** Clista and Carroll Legrand, members of Augusta Road Baptist Church in Greenville, were attending their first national CBF General Assembly. **5.** Moderator Laurie Berry addressed a packed room at the South Carolina state meeting June 26 at the General Assembly. **6.** After Laurie spoke, Butch Green, CBF missionary to Belgium, was one of several missionaries who talked briefly about their work.

## Carolina Challenge

We had excellent attendance from South Carolina with 503 registered at the national General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship June 26-28 in Charlotte. Our turnout, however, wasn't good enough for us to win the Carolina Challenge. North Carolina had 1510 registered, and even though we got two points to their one for every person present, we still came up a little short. That means some yet-to-be named North Carolinian will be enjoying South Carolina barbecue, apples, and peaches with some Belgium chocolates and a Charleston dinner thrown in.